IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of the Japanese patent document, together with an English-language abstract thereof, is attached.

Cited Japanese Patent Application No. 11-330444 was first cited in an Official Letter/Search Report issued by the Chinese Patent Office on June 24, 2005, in Chinese Patent Application No. 2004100036264, not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Statement. The listed U.S. document corresponds to the listed Japanese patent document. The Official Letter/Search Report is also listed on the Form PTO-1449, and a copy is attached.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Didas

Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 55,112

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO 30 Rockefeller Plaza New York, New York 10112-3800

Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

MJD:eyw

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)			ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.015873		APPLICATION NO. 09/976,096		
LIST	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMER PATENT AND TRADEMARK OF OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPI	LICANT(S)	APPLICANT TETSUYA ITANO ET AL.				
Date submitted	(Use several sheets if necessary to PTO: September 19, 2005	EP 1 9 2005 E	FILING DATE October 15, 2001				
	\ATT	3 5/	U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				
*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	TRADEMAN DATE	NAME	CLASS	S SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	6,133,062	10/17/2000	Pai et al.	438	70		
		FC	DREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS				
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLAS	S SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT	
	11-330444	11/30/1999	Japan			Abstract	
			<u> </u>				
			d in application no. 2004100036264	on June	e 24, 2005.		
EXAMINER			DATE CONSIDERED				

Sheet_1_ of _1	
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^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.